



CHRIST CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE CONGREGATION.



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8th, 2026

9:30 AM



Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, 1606-1669. Christ and the Woman of Samaria, Among Ruins, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. [Your paragraph text](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christ_and_the_Samaritan_Woman_among_Ruins.jpg) [retrieved March 5, 2026]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christ_and_the_Samaritan_Woman_among_Ruins.jpg.

Welcome to Christ Church United Church of Christ – Des Plaines

"We serve to be a beacon of God's love; a place of hope & belonging."

We're so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting or looking for a church home, we hope you experience belonging in this sacred space.

📍 Our **worship services** are livestreamed and available on:

🌐 christchurchuccdesplaines.org

📺 facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

We also invite you to join us after worship for fellowship—a time to connect, enjoy refreshments, and get to know one another.

👶 CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

We joyfully welcome children of all ages in our services. Feel free to move about as needed—this space is for your whole family.

Helpful Resources:

- **Toys & Activities:** Located in the Narthex—ask an usher for assistance.
- **Sunday School:** Offered every other week during worship, with fellowship & activities.
- **Play Area:** Available during fellowship time after worship.

FACILITIES & AMENITIES

♿️ **Gender-neutral Restrooms:** Wobbe Hall (accessible, changing table) & Sacristy

♿️ **Gendered Restrooms:** Downstairs via Narthex (changing tables)

💧 **Water Cooler:** Outside the Narthex (right-hand side)

🌿 **Quiet Spots:** Memorial Garden & Little Library Courtyard for peaceful rest or prayer.

🌍 OUR VISION

To make a lasting difference in our lives, community, and world.

📖 Want to learn more?

You can find additional details about our ministries, history, beliefs, and justice commitments at

👉 christchurchuccdesplaines.org

OUR DENOMINATION

We are part of the **United Church of Christ (UCC)**—a progressive, justice-seeking denomination known as a "church of firsts" and a community of extravagant welcome, the UCC unites faith and action in a shared vision "...that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Christ Church UCC belongs to the **Illinois Conference** and the **Chicago Metropolitan Association** of the UCC.

ABOUT US

We are an **Open and Affirming (ONA)** and **WISE for Mental Health** congregation.

At **Christ Church UCC**, we embrace diversity and affirm the sacred worth of every person. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, marital statuses, and faith backgrounds into full participation in our life, ministry, and leadership.



UCC Mental Health Network

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

As a **WISE congregation**, we recognize the gifts of those living with mental health challenges, including mental illness, addiction, and trauma. We commit to:

- Reducing stigma through education and inclusion
- Supporting individuals and families through companionship and advocacy
- Including people with lived experience in all aspects of church life
- Partnering with organizations engaged in mental health and faith-based work



🌿 OUR MISSION

"Share God's teachings through worship, prayer, and ministries while striving to continue the work of Jesus Christ by treating all with compassion and kindness and helping those in need."

"The earth's depths are in his hands; the mountain heights belong to him; the sea, which he made, is his along with the dry ground, which his own hands formed." - Psalm 95:4-5

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

** Please stand in body or spirit.*

Quiet meditation at the first note of the prelude.

PRELUDE

***** **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES** *****

HYMN "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" (see music insert)

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

One: Come into God's abundance, you of great faith, and you who grasp at crumbs; you who resist, and you who persist.

All: In Christ, we gather and are transformed.

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

***** **BELL** *****

HYMN "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour" (see music insert)

OPENING PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

One: Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows our temptation to be cruel to one another, and yet imagines for us a life of mutual blessings. God of mercy and compassion, we confess we have not always treated our neighbors, friends, or even family members with dignity.

All: We have used dehumanizing language or stereotypes. We have been critical when we should have been encouraging. We have told lies when we should have been honest with hard truths. We have excluded people when we should have widened the invitation. Forgive us for the ways that we have failed our neighbors, friends, and family with unkind words. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

WAVING A SIGN OF PEACE 🙌

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

READINGS (CEB)

Exodus 17:1-7

*Matthew 15:21-28

CHARACTER NARRATIVE

SERMON

“Crumbs of Faith: When God Sees the Marginalized” Rev. Gilbert Martinez

RESPONSE to scripture (twice)

‣ Je-su, Je-su, fill us with your love, show ‣
‣ us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you. ‣

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

All: We believe in the dignity of human beings as image bearers and dearly beloved children of God. We believe all people carry God-given dignity— across every age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, language, accent, documentation status, refugee status, appearance, ability, illness, relationship status, social media following, family history, criminal background, education, geographical location, clothing, wealth or poverty, religion, hobbies, possessions, parents or non-parents, mental health, height, weight, hairstyle, tattoos, piercings, talents, or weaknesses. We believe human dignity is inescapable and irrevocable.

*HYMN

“Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us”

(see music insert)

PRAYER OF PETITION

One: Holy One...space at the table.

All: Holy One, hear our prayer of thanksgiving. May our gratitude make us gentle and generous with ourselves, with each other, and with all.

One: These prayers...of dignity.

All: Holy One, hear our prayer born of struggle. May our frustration make us fierce advocates for ourselves, for each other, and for all.

One: These prayers...we raise to you:

All: Holy One, hear the prayer of our hearts. May our hope give us courage and care to embody your love for all the world.

THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US (unison) *please recite the version closest to your heart*

(Our Father, Our Mother, Our Parent, etc.)

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY The ushers will bring the collection basket to you. Thank you for your continued support. *Other ways to give:* Text-to-Give (847) 750-3007 Online: <https://bit.ly/CCUCCGiving>



HYMN

“The Work of Imagination” (during collection, see music insert)

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** (After the benediction, you are invited to respond with these words.)
We go into the wilderness of this week holding fast to the way of Jesus. We will seek love. We will practice justice. We will help bring God's vision to life. Amen.

***** Bell & Extinguishing of the Candles *****

***HYMN** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" (see music insert)

POSTLUDE

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

472

Thomas A. Dorsey, 1932; alt.

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
2 When my way grows drear, pre-cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the shad - ows ap - pear and the night draws near

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
when my life is al - most gone,
and the day is past and gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall:
At the riv - er I stand, guide my feet. hold my hand:

Refrain
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Luke 18:35-43

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915); alt.

1 Pass me not, O gen - tle Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;
 2 Let me at your throne of mer - cy find a sweet re - lief;
 3 Trust - ing on - ly in your mer - it, would I seek your face;
 4 Be the Spring of all my com - fort, more than life to me;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.
 Kneel - ing there in deep con - tri - tion, help my un - be - lief.
 Heal my wound - ed, bro - ken spir - it, save me by your grace.
 Not just here on earth be - side me, but e - ter - nal - ly.

Refrain

Sav - ior, Sav - ior, hear my hum - ble cry;

While on oth - ers you are call - ing, do not pass me by.

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

583

Daniel Bechtel, 1986

Unison

Hos. 11:1-9; 2 Tim. 1:8-10

1 Like a moth - er who has borne us, held us
 2 Like a fa - ther who has taught us, grasped our
 3 Though as chil - dren we have wan - dered, placed our
 4 When we of - fer food and com - fort, grasp our

close in her de - light, Fed us free - ly from her
 hand and been our guide, Lift - ed us and healed our
 trust in power and might, Left be - hind our broth - ers,
 neigh - bor's hand in love, Tread the path of peace and

bod - y, God has called us in - to life.
 sor - rows, God has walked with us in life.
 sis - ters, God still calls us in - to life.
 jus - tice, God still walks with us in life.

The Work of Imagination

Words and Music by
ANDREA HAMILTON, REBEKAH LOWE,
and AMANDA MEISENHEIMER

Verse 1

Dm F Bb F

1. Can you im - a - gine a world with - out hate,
2. Can you im - a - gine? we have__ e - nough

where we__ see God in ev - 'ry face? Can you im - a - gine
to feed and clothe__ ev - 'ry - one?_ Can you im - a - gine

a world with - out fear, where all__ are safe and peace is near?
a world where all are free to be the person God made them to be?

— Can you im - a - gine all things re - newed? As

deep cries out to deep, our spir - its join your song In the

work of im - a - gin - a - tion to re - write ev - 'ry wrong. As

deep cries out to deep, we pray your king - dom come. In the

Dm Bb F C 1. Dm Bb F

work of im - a - gin - a - tion to see your will be done.

2.

Bridge

Bb

F

Dm

C



done. Oh, dream with me. —

What will we see? —



Come join hands with me — 'til all are free. —

As



deep cries out to deep,

our spir - its join your song

In the



work of im - a - gin - a - tion

to re - write ev - 'ry wrong.

As



deep cries out to deep,

we pray your king - dom come.

In the

1.

Dm

Bb

F

C

2.

Dm

Bb



work of im - a - gin - a - tion —

As work of im - a - gin - a - tion



To see your will be done

To see your will be

(Oh, dream with me) —



done

To see your will be — done —

(Oh, dream with me) —

(Oh, dream with me)



To see your will be — done —

Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Music by
William Williams
Translated by
Peter Williams

Words by
John Hughes

VERSE

G C G/B G G/B G/D D G C/E C Am7 G/D D7 G



1. Guide me O Thou great Je - ho - vah, pil - grim through this bar - ren land.
2. O pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, whence the heal - ing stream doth flow.
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious fears sub - side.



I am weak, but Thou art might - y, hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand.
Let the fier - y, cloud - y pil - lar, lead me all my jour - ney through.
Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me safe on Ca - naan's side.



Bread of heav - en, Bread of heav en, feed me now and ev - er more (ev - er - more.)
Strong De - liv' - rer, strong De - liv' - rer, be Thou still my strength and shield (strength and shield.)
Songs of prais - es, songs of prais es, I will ev - er give to Thee (give to Thee.)



Feed me now and ev - er more.
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee.

CCLI 1718955

Happy Women's History Month

to the storytellers who inspire us to tell our own stories - whether they be our lived experience, or the epic tales that we could only dream about.



Sandra Cisneros

Bestselling Author & Poet

N.K. Jemisin

Hugo Award-Winning
Sci-Fi/Fantasy Author

LENTEN SERVICES

~~Feb 2/18
7 PM~~

Palm Sunday

3/29
9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday

4/2
7 PM

Good Friday

4/3
7 PM

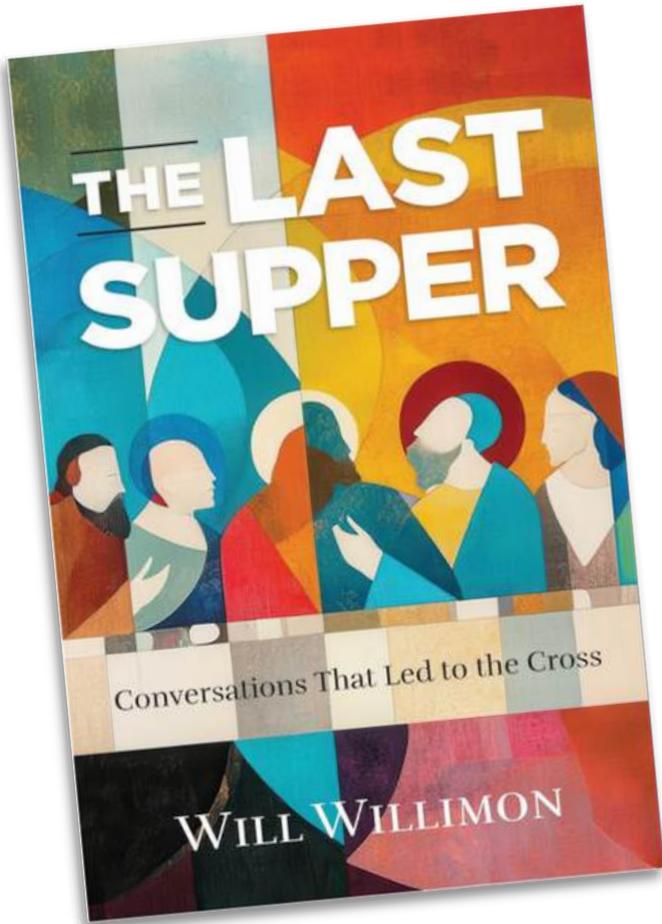
Easter

4/5
9:30 AM

God is still speaking—join us this Lent at the table to hear new insights on The Last Supper.

Lenten Book Study

Thursdays | February 12–March 19
6:00–7:30 pm



Join us for a six-week Lenten study of *The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross* by William H. Willimon. Together we will explore the stories Jesus told at tables and how they prepare us for Holy Week. Physical and digital books available. If the cost of the book is a concern, a copy will gladly be provided. Affordability will not be a barrier to participation.

REGISTER HERE:



<https://tinyurl.com/CCUCCLent2026>

Ch. 5 Mar 12th

Ch. 6 Mar 19th



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OR



IN MEMORY / HONOR

In honor of Phil's Birthday on 3/9 from Nancy Seils



May we continue special prayers for...

Marion Meseth*	Marilyn McCown	Julie Radman	Our Country
Dawn Mashek	Dorothy Zemke*	Rev. Marcia Urban	Ukraine, Lebanon,
Linda Steckel	Kelly Roberts	Jack Branding	Palestinian, and Israeli
Jack Storm	Hope & Bruce Tschappat*	Charles Eppely	citizens
Marilyn Hoover*	Helen Harney	Alice Barnhart	
Sue Prunty	Caid Carter	The Hudsons	
John Prellberg	Ariana Subera	Documented &	
Grace Pastor	Louis Georgioulis	Undocumented Immigrants	Homebound*

Special prayers for:

Those living with mental illness, illness, without a home or food, our church community, service people, veterans, our nation, and our leaders.



Happy Birthday!

8 - Laura Hallberg
9 - Mike Harkovich
9 - Kyle Speer
14 - Barbara Nix

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to everyone scheduled to help with worship:

Pastor.....	Rev. Gilbert Martinez
Liturgist/Lector.....	Kyle Speer
Music Director.....	Karen Wilberg
Council Greeter.....	Bob Neil
Ushers.....	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo



ANNOUNCEMENTS



LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 52±
Our attendance is calculated using our LIVE Facebook viewers and those in person.

GET IT TOGETHER: Tiny Toes & Big Hearts! Our Get It Together group crafted blankets, hats & booties for Project Baby Blanket! They'll bring a little love to NICU babies. Can you crochet or knit? Consider joining our group! The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the lounge. *The next meeting will be on March 18th, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.*

MEN'S LUNCH: Held on the second Monday of every month at 11:45 am, at Sunrise Grill.

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: Held the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am, at Sunrise Grill.

SELF-HELP CLOSET & PANTRY: They are in dire need of the following items: ketchup, mustard, mayo, pasta sauce (plain), flour, sugar, instant coffee, breakfast cereal (chocolate), new or like-new clean bed linens and towels, men's, women's, children's underwear (all sizes), body wash, shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, and paper towels. Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT: If you would like to bring items for The Community Backpack Project, these are the suggested items (please no glass jars): single serve breakfast cereal, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, canned red beans, one-pound bags of rice, pasta and pasta sauce, canned soup, canned pasta, stew or chili, peanut butter and jelly, fruit cups, pudding cups, fruit snacks, individually-wrapped snacks and chips. Please place them in the blue bins. Speak to Cathy for more information!

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP: Looking for a way to get involved? Sign-up for coffee hour in the office.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Sign-up sheet is available in the office. 

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS): Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities. *Ushers will have OGHS envelopes available. OGHS offering date: March 15, 2026*

EASTER EGG HUNT: Kids of all ages are welcome to join us after Easter worship and fill up a basket of colorful Easter eggs! Please bring your own basket.

CHURCH CLEANING: Come by on March 24th at 10 AM to do some spring cleaning around the church.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY DATES coming up: **Ch. 5** Mar 12th
Ch. 6 Mar 19th

RELIABLE HELP FOR ALL YOUR HOME REPAIR AND UPKEEP NEEDS! Services include general repairs, minor electrical & plumbing, painting, flooring, furniture assembly, power washing, landscaping, and home & window cleaning. **Call Emanuel at (224) 392-9069**





Christ Church
United Church of Christ
1492 Henry Avenue - Des Plaines, IL 60016
847-297-4230



Tuesday - Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS
Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 3 pm;
Days off: Friday & Saturday



For after-hour pastoral care emergencies,
please call Rev. Gilbert on his cell phone at 224-250-9898.

Website: christchurchuccdesplaines.org
Facebook: facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines
Instagram: instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Gilbert Martinez, Pastor
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Kat Chwalisz, Administrative Assistant
kat@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Helayne Levin, Finance Coordinator
helayne@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Karen Wilberg, Music Director & Church Organist
karen@christchurchuccdesplaines.org

Tommie Jordan, Custodian
Emanuel Alvarez, Maintenance Technician
Rita S. Barth, Faith Forward Adventures Lead Teacher
Grace Pastor, Faith Forward Adventures Teacher

Lay Ministry: All Members

Judy Rosedale, *Council President*; Laura Hallberg, *Council Vice-President*
Council greeters are available to listen to your questions, concerns
& positive feedback about worship and all areas of church life.

Art Sketch of Church Front by Nancy Boeckenhauer 1990.